

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043762

FOL MOSCOW 2235 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BELGRADE  
LENINGRAD FEB 15, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2235

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT EGEN UR US  
SUBJECT: SOVIETS REFUSE EMBOFFS VISITS TO MAGNITOGORSK AND  
KARAGANDA

REF: (A) STATE 37986, (B) MOSCOW 563(NOTAL)

1. MFA PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT INFORMED EMBASSY AFTERNOON OF  
FEBRUARY 14 THAT REQUEST FOR FEBRUARY 15-18 VISIT TO  
MAGNITOGORSK BY PLOCOUNSELOR AND BRITISH FIRST SECRETARY  
DOUGLAS MARTIN WAS REFUSED FOR "REASONS OF A TEMPORARY  
NATURE" (NOTWITHSTANDING FACT THAT UPDK HAD SAME DAY  
ISSUED PLANE TICKETS). AT SAME TIME, PROTOCOL ALSO TURNED  
DOWN PROPOSED TRIP BY EMBOFFS SONTAG AND BYSNES TO  
KARAGANDA, GIVING SAME REASON. (NOTE: THESE WERE FIRST TWO  
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PAGE 02 STATE 043762

EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR VISITS TO CITIES INCLUDED IN SOVIET  
REVISED OPEN AREAS LIST REPORTED REFTEL B).

2. IN FEBRUARY 14 CALL ON DEPUTY CHIEF OF MFA'S USA  
DIVISION FEDOSEYEV, POLCOUNSELOR ORALLY PROTESTED ARBI-  
TRARY MANNER IN WHICH SOVIETS HAVING OPENED UP THESE  
CITIES DENIED FIRST TWO REQUESTS FOR U.S. EMBOFF TRAVEL.



NOTING SOME SOVIET OFFICIALS (E.G. MFA PROTOCOL OFFICER) HAD BEEN INFORMALLY ASKING US WHETHER U.S. WOULD RECIPROCATATE RECENT SOVEIT TRAVEL RELAXATIONS, POLCOUNSELOR SAID ONLY RESPONSE HE COULD NOTE AT THIS JUNCTURE WAS THAT THESE TWO ARBITRARY REFUSALS OF TRAVEL REQUESTS WOULD BE PROMPTLY REPORTED TO WASHINGTON FOR IST CONSIDERATION.

3. FEDOSEYEV REPLIED LAMELY THAT HE WAS SORRY HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO CHANGE THE DECISION RE MAGNITOGORSK. AS HE HAD NOTED IN FEBRUARY 13 CONVERSATION, FEDOSEYEV SAID THAT MAGNITOGORSK GORKOM FIRST SECRETARY ("AND ANOTHER MAN") WERE IN OR ENROUTE TO MOSCOW BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE MATTER. IN CLOSING FEDOSEYEV SAID THAT MAYBE WE WOULD HAVE BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME. NOTETAKER SINITSYN ADDED IT WOULD HELP IF REQUESTS FOR TRAVEL TO NEWLY OPENED AREAS WERE SENT TO MFA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (NOTE SONTAG AND BYRNES REQUEST FOR FEBRUARY 17 TRIP TO KARAGANDA WAS SENT MFA FEBRUARY 7. POLCOONSELOR HAD INFORMALLY ADVISED FEDOSEYEV OF MAGNITOGORSK PLANS FEBRUARY 9 AND HAND DELIVERED LETTER FEBRUARY 10).

4. NOTIFIED OF ORU ORAL PROTEST BRITISH HEAD OF CHANCERY SAID HE WOULD FOLLOW UP SIMILARLY.

5. RECOMMEND SWIFT HARD RETALIATIONS BY DEPARTMENT.  
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PAGE 03 STATE 043762

MATLOCK UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN



## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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Sheryl P. Walter  
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